

# South Precinct Email Community Newsletter

May 2, 2007



Dear Community Friends,

## **Reporting Crime to the Police**

This subject was previously covered some time ago, so we thought it was time to revisit this topic. We need people to use the 9-1-1 system to report crimes that have occurred, crimes in progress, or suspicious activity. Calls for service let us know the crime trends in a neighborhood, where we need to focus our attention, and how we assign our resources.

### **Call 9-1-1 when:**

- When you have a Police, Fire or Medical emergency.
- To report a crime that is in progress, or has just occurred.
- There is a situation that could - or does - pose a danger to life, property, or both.
- There is suspicious activity involving a person(s), or vehicle, that appears criminal in intent.

**Please Note:** Seattle Police 9-1-1 operators have immediate access to interpreters who can assist in communicating with callers, and TTY machines at every station. Also, if you are reporting an emergency occurring in another city (i.e. you are talking with a family member in Everett and they start having a heart attack) call 9-1-1 to be transferred to the appropriate jurisdiction.

**9-1-1 calls from pay phones and cell phones are free.**

### **The Seattle Police Non Emergency Line: (206) 625-5011**

Reasons for calling the non-emergency number include, but are not limited to the following:

- You want to report a nuisance, such as a noise or parking complaint.
- To report a non-emergency crime, one that did not just occur, and the suspect(s) are not in the immediate area.
- You have questions about something suspicious occurring in your neighborhood, and you are not sure it is criminal activity.

### **What To Expect When You Call:**

Try to remain patient and calm while the 9-1-1 operator asks you questions. They are trained to ask specific questions to quickly determine what is wrong and what type of assistance to send. Please stay on the line until the operator tells you to hang up.

### **Be Prepared To Answer These Questions:**

- **Is it an emergency?** Using the previous definitions, if the situation is not an emergency, please tell that to the operator up front.
- **Your EXACT location:** This may not always be the same as where the activity is occurring, but *from where you are calling*.
- **The location of the activity:** If you don't have an exact location, give us the best location you can (near the intersection of Smith Ave. & Jones St.)
- **Time lapse:** Our response can be based on whether the crime happened five minutes ago, five hours ago, or is currently in progress.
- **The exact activity you are reporting**
- **Suspect Information:** Any information you can provide clothing, height, weight, age, direction of travel, etc. will be helpful to the responding officer(s).
- **Weapon information.** Are there any weapons involved? What type?

### **Phone Reports**

With some crime reporting, you may be asked if you are willing to do a phone report rather than having an officer respond. This frees the officers to respond to other emergency calls.

Until next time, Take Care and Stay Safe!

Mark Solomon, South Precinct Crime Prevention Coordinator